

TO: The Mayor and Common Council

FROM: Glenn Steckman

RE: Manager's Report

June 7, 2021

**Extension Pandemic Ordinance:**

NSHC and the EOC have recommended extending the sun setting of the pandemic ordinance to September 30. The EOC believes it is important to follow the medical recommendations of NSHC. While NSHC has been able to vaccinate 75% of the adult population of 40 years and above. The under 40 population is less than 55%.

With private business restrictions being lifted in Nome and the increase in travel, there has been a spike in new COVID cases in Nome as people are becoming too relaxed. With the testing at the airport, we are still catching folks traveling to Nome who have tested positive before their COVID-19 symptoms have developed.

The success of the guidelines implemented this past year have resulted in the Nome census district having had an infection rate of just 3.5% and thankfully no deaths. Kenai in comparison has had 10% of their population infected and 21 deaths.

The personnel cost of maintaining these measures are reimbursable to the city through our DHSS grant and ARPA funds.

**Public Safety Advisory Commission:**

The commission met this past week to review three items:

1. NPD accreditation
2. Sexual Assault policy and procedure for NPD
3. NPD statistics comparison for 2020 and 2021

The Commission recommended that the NPD pursue, at a minimum, accreditation under Oregon Accreditation Alliance which has 145 standards versus the more challenging and potentially more expensive CALEA process with 450 standards.

The sexual assault policy procedure was reviewed with one minor change to how the state reporting procedures have changed.

Sexual assaults are down this year from last year 50 for 2020 to 23 for 2021. This number is still too high. Call volume in general is also down from year to year. The police report is attached.

**Emergency Medical Services:**

DHSS has hired a consultant to review rural EMS services across the state. The consultant met with NSHC and then with the NVAD chief, the mayor and me. The meeting focused on how Nome was

managing the demands on its volunteer service for EMS response. The discussion itself was focused on volunteer burnout, dwindling volunteerism seen across the country and hybrid models.

**COVID-19 in Nome:**

Unfortunately, community spread is still happening in Nome. Vaccinations have slowed and the cases now seen are mostly non-vaccinated residents. The P1 variant is in Nome. Currently for residents over 40, the vaccination rate is 75%. This is not reflecting the increase of seasonal residents. As we enter the summer season, we are seeing rising numbers of summertime workers, a large influx of birders and also family members visiting.

**Ball Fields at Rec Center:**

The city has had the youth ballfields surveyed, the property is being graded, fill material brought in and fines will be graded over the fields to allow for a smoother surface. Rec and Parks will begin advertising for youth spring ball.

**NPD:**

The NPD has hired two more police officers. One officer will start next week. The other officer should start before the end of the month. And, another potential candidate is in background review.

**Lemonade Day:**

The city is participating in this event to develop entrepreneurial skills. The city will host the event in Anvil Mountain Square.

**COVID 19:**

Because of limitations on travel last year because of the pandemic, I've been liberal on allowing staff to take time off to allow for a mental health break. These past fifteen months have been tough not only on the community but also the city staff. Too often they have weathered the anger from the community and the visitors.

**Labor Contract Renewal:**

I am urging support of the one year labor contract renewal. This one year renewal will allow the parties to return to face to face discussions instead of zoom negotiations in late fall.

**Spring Clean-up:**

For the first time in memory, we had rain and snow on the last day of spring clean-up. The staff picked up twenty truck loads from the u-call, we-haul and twelve vehicles were removed. Eighty-nine car loads were dumped at the mono-fill. On Saturday the staff took five truck loads to the dump.

I want to thank staff, the volunteers who helped and the children who participated in the clean-up. I also want to thank the Lions Club for cooking the hot dogs.

I know some people were not happy with how the clean-up was done. But, the process followed was how the last four cleanups were done. I believe it was more efficient.

**Safety Training:**

The staff has begun safety training to allow the city a 5% reduction in our insurance rates through AML/JIA. I want to Thank Cheryl Thompson for coordinating the effort.

**Mark your calendar:**

I am requesting that a date be set aside for a meeting to discuss goals for the organization. For the past 16 months much of the city's effort has been focused on public safety and financial stimulus due to COVID-19. As we move forward, I would like for the council to determine what projects that they would like the city to undertake.

**CARES Funds:**

The city has been advised that CARES funds must be spent by December 31, 2021. I am recommending a Phase Seven program that would be directed to bars, restaurants and hotels, motels and B&Bs. This phase would follow the same as Phase Six which would give up to \$7,500 in CARES stimulus funds.